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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH43337

TOHAK29

**TOP SECRET SENSITIVE**

NOVEMBER 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR RELEASED UNHARMED: THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR AND ONE OF HIS EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE RELEASED UNHARMED EARLY TUESDAY MORNING AFTER HAVING BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE IN THE EMBASSY LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY A PHILIPPINE RESIDENT OF THE WASHINGTON AREA. THE FILIPINO GUNMAN, NAPOLEON LECHOCO, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ANTI-MARCOS CAUSES, DEMANDED THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS ALLOW HIS SON AND ANOTHER FILIPINO COUPLE TO LEAVE THE PHILIPPINES. NEGOTIATIONS WERE WELL UNDERWAY WHEN LECHOCO SURRENDERED. HE WAS ARRAIGNED TUESDAY. THE FBI PLAYED AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT LECHOCO'S SURRENDER. THE INCIDENT WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AGAINST AN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

INDOCHINA SITUATION: FIGHTING OVER HIGHGROUND POSITIONS IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUES AT A MODERATE RATE DESPITE ANOTHER SEVERE STORM WHICH BROUGHT FLOODING TO MANY OF THE COASTAL AREAS. THE COMMUNISTS MONTHLY MINI-HIGHPOINT IN THE DELTA PROVINCES HAS TAPERED OFF AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS ON NOVEMBER 18 REPULSED KHMER COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST A GARRISON POSITION TEN MILES EAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE MEKONG RIVER -- OVER 100 INSURGENTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. ON THE SAME DAY, HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN THE LOVEK AREA -- 25 MILES NORTH OF THE CAPITAL -- FORCED GOVERNMENT TROOPS TO ABANDON A POSITION, BUT ARMY COMMANDERS DID NOT CONSIDER THE THREAT IN THE AREA SERIOUS. COMMUNIST GUNNERS HAVE HIT PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN SUBURB WITH SPORADIC ROCKET

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FIRE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT DID LITTLE DAMAGE AND ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES HAVE RESULTED. IN THE FAR SOUTHEAST, INCONCLUSIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES AROUND SVAY RIENG WHERE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE TRYING TO PUSH COMMUNIST UNITS BACK FROM THE CITY'S SOUTHERN PERIMETER.

KHMER CREDENTIALS FIGHT IN THE UN: ON NOVEMBER 16 A HIGH RANKING MEMBER OF THE GKR DELEGATION TO UNESCO IN PARIS "DEFECTED" TO THE SIHANOUK SIDE. A PRESS ACCOUNT QUOTES HIM AS CALLING ON OTHER COUNTRIES AT THAT CONFERENCE NOT TO RECOGNIZE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN INITIAL MOVE IN A CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED EFFORT TO DISCREDIT THE GKR IN THE UPCOMING UN CREDENTIALS DEBATE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE COMMUNISTS PLAN TO INCITE ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN PHNOM PENH TO COINCIDE WITH THE DEBATE. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT A PROVISIONAL CAPITAL IS BEING CONSTRUCTED NEAR ANGKOR WAT AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL PROCLAIM IT TO THE WORLD DURING THE DEBATE.

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